

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 8 – 10 and 12 – 16 remain in this application, with Claims 14 and 16 having been amended and Claims 1 – 7 and 11 having been canceled to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The applicant and his undersigned attorney are most appreciative of the indication of allowability of Claims 8 – 10, 12 and 13.

Claims 14 – 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, i.e., the applicant has allegedly “not provided sufficient structure to support the functional or operational language presented in lines 8 – 10 of claim 14.”

By the subject amendment Claim 14 has been amended to render it fully compliant with the mandates of 35 U.S.C. 112. In particular, as amended Claim 14 calls for the legs being arranged for the thigh portion to bend and thereby absorb energy during an accident involving the vehicle, whereupon the legs are lifted from the vehicle once the energy has been absorbed. Clear support for this amendment can be found in the specification. See for example, the paragraph starting on line 20 of page 9 wherein it states: “In the event of a crash, a leg 25 will tend to bend at its thigh portion, so lifting the foot off the floor of the vehicle.” So too, the last sentence in the paragraph beginning on line 10 of page 13 states: “In the event of a crash, the horizontal leg 41 deforms about the forward end of the seat and as shown in Fig. 9B, tends to

bend around the point at which the thigh portion extends forward of the slot 24 and the leg 42 may be lifted up off the floor once the shock has been absorbed.

Claim 14 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being “unclear if the horizontal portion and the thigh portion are intended to be the same structure.” It is respectfully submitted that the subject amendment has obviated that rejection as well, since the claim now speaks solely in terms of the thigh portion. Thus, in view of the amendment to Claim 14, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 14 on the grounds of non-enablement and failing to point out and distinctly claim the invention be withdrawn.

Claim 14 was also rejected on the basis of prior art, namely, that the subject matter of this claim is anticipated by EP 0844938. It is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 14 as set forth herein clearly defines over that reference. In this connection, it is clear that EP 0844938 does not disclose a seat body having “elongate sockets *extending in a forward direction* when the seat is located in a vehicle” (emphasis added). Furthermore, the legs in the device of that reference are not “arranged for the thigh portion to bend and absorb energy during an accident involving the vehicle, and subsequent to the accident for the leg to be lifted from the vehicle once the energy has been absorbed.”

The examiner’s attention is respectfully directed to the arguments presented in the prior amendment in relation to the non-obviousness of Claims 8 and 9, since such arguments are applicable to amended Claim 14.

Claims 15 and 16 depend directly upon Claims 9 and 8, respectively, and are hence patentable for reasons similar thereto.

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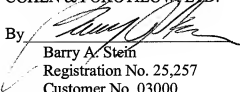
For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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